

NEWS RELEASE

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MADISON, ILLINOIS MAN SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM

A. Courtney Cox, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that Anthony R. Wise, age 24, of Madison, Illinois, was sentenced to serve ten years imprisonment for his conviction of being a felon in possession of a firearm. The sentence imposed was the maximum imprisonment allowed under federal law. The Court also imposed a fine of \$750 and ordered the Defendant to serve three years of supervised release following his release from prison.

Wise entered a plea of guilty to that offense on February 28, 2008. At the time he entered his plea, Wise agreed that during the late evening of January 28, 2007, he was present in Venice, Illinois, at the apartment of his ex-girlfriend. Also present in the apartment were his ex-girlfriend's two-year-old daughter, four-year old nephew and two-year old niece.

Later that evening, while Wise and his ex-girlfriend were in a rear bedroom of the apartment, the four-year-old boy located a loaded, .38 caliber firearm that Wise had left unsecured in the living room of the apartment. The four-year-old boy accidentally shot his two-year-old cousin in the head, which ultimately led to her death.

Following his arrest, Wise gave a post-arrest statement in which he admitted to storing the firearm in the apartment in the past, and that about two days before the two-year-old victim was shot, putting the gun near the computer in the living room of the apartment, leaving the gun completely unsecured. Wise stated that he knew that a child resided in the apartment and that the location he left the firearm was not a good place to leave a gun.

The investigation was conducted by members of the Illinois State Police and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James E. Crowe, III.